

Kensington Around Town

Nov/Dec 2019



SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY
NOV 30



Support the local shops
that make Kensington strong.

ExploreKensington.com/shops

Upcoming Events

KAT Presents 'Guys and Dolls'
Through Sunday, Nov 24

Thanksgiving Town Dance
Thursday, Nov 27 • 7-11pm

Christmas Tree Lighting
Sunday, Dec 1 • 5:30pm

4000 Knowles Community Meeting
Monday, Dec 2 • 7:30pm

Fall & Ice Author Series
Wednesday, Dec 5 • 6:30-7:30pm

Johnson's Holiday Market
Friday, Dec 6 • 5-8pm

**Kensington Antique Row
Holiday Open House**
Friday, Dec 6 • 7-9pm

**The British Players Present
'Alice in Wonderland'**
Friday, Dec 6 - Saturday Jan 4

Breakfast with Santa at KVFD
Saturday, Dec 7 • 8:30am-12:30pm

**Customer Appreciation &
Christmas Party at Strosnidars**
Saturday, Dec 7 • 11am-2pm

Cider by the Fireplace at VOK
Sunday, Dec 8 • 5-7:30pm

Menorah Lighting
Sunday, Dec 22 • 5pm

**Caroling around the Fountain at
Flinn Park**
Monday, Dec 23 • 6:30pm

For more event information go to:
TOK.md.gov/Events-Calendar

Town Happenings



Town Offices Closed:
Thursday, Nov 28
Friday, Nov 29

Town Council Meeting
Monday, Dec 9 • 7pm

Town Offices Closed:
Tuesday, Dec 24 (Closes at 12pm)
Wednesday, Dec 25

Trash Collected as Scheduled

Celebrate Local on National Days

November 26 - National Cake Day
JennyCakes Bakery • Baskin-Robbins

December 2 - National Mutt Day

Seven Town & Three County Parks - TOK.MD.gov/Parks
New *Kensington Dog Run* at 10450 Metropolitan Ave

December 20 - National Sangria Day

The Dish & Dram • KTown Bistro
Java Nation • Frankly Pizza

From the Mayor

Town Manager Sanford Daily announced his plans to retire at the end of the year at our November 18, 2019 Council Meeting.

Mr. Daily joined the Town in April 2008, when former Mayor, Pete Fosselman, advocated for a professional manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Town. Previously retired from the City of Gaithersburg after 27 years, Mr. Daily was persuaded to come and work for the Town.

I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Daily since 2012, when I was first elected to the Town Council. With his many years of municipal management experience, Mr. Daily has served our Town exceptionally well and with the highest level of professionalism. Our elected officials, Residents, and the Town staff will miss his steady

hand and institutional knowledge.

Mr. Daily's last day as Town Manager will be December 31st, however, at the request of the Council, he will remain on staff as a consultant through March 2020. Assistant Town Manager Matthew Hoffman will become acting Town Manager beginning January 1, 2020.

The Board of Appeals issued a denial for oral arguments and conditional use (self-storage) for the property located at 10619 Connecticut Avenue on October 29, 2019. The applicant, 1784 Capitol Holdings, has 30 days to appeal the decision to the Circuit Court of Maryland.

On behalf of the Town we wish a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Strosniders Hardware ran a round-up program during the month of October where customers were able to round up their purchases to the next dollar amount, with that difference being donated to the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department. In total they raised \$1,934. Strosniders also hosted a Steak Cookoff competition where they donated several grills and grilling accessories to be raffled off; these proceeds were also donated to KVFD, totaling \$884. Amy Hart, events coordinator at Strosniders, presented a \$2,818 check to KVFD Treasurer David Breitman. These funds will go towards purchasing a new Ambulance.



Building & Town Permits

Please be reminded that both a Town and County permit are needed for any interior or exterior structural changes, with the exception of landscaping and general repairs. Historic District properties will also require a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). Please contact the Town staff at 301-949-2424 with any questions.

- 10209 Montgomery Avenue - Shed**
- 3500 Dupont Avenue - Addition**
- 3703 Farragut Avenue - Fence**
- 3419 Plyers Mill Road - Dumpster**
- 3504 Dupont Avenue - Pepco**
- 10031/10033 Frederick Avenue - Pepco**

Kensington Dog Run

Ready to play? The Kensington Dog Run fence installation has been completed and the park is now open for your best buddy to roam free. Your dog will get a little cardio while you get some fresh air and meet up with other dog lovers in the community. Additional park improvements still to come.



- Located at 10450 Metropolitan Ave., just east of Wheatley Street.
- Please make sure your dog has current rabies vaccination.
- Dogs older than 6 months must be spayed/neutered.
- There is no water source available, so please be sure to bring water for your pet.
- Park hours are from dawn to dusk, which is roughly 6:55am to 4:49pm this time of year.
- Use dog waste bags and dispose of them properly.
- Dogs and children must be supervised at all times.

Here's something else to look forward to: local artists have been chosen to use their creative expression in painting the concrete piers on the south side of the park.

Please send your favorite photos of your dog at the park to Kariann.Zentz@tok.md.gov and they may be posted in future journals.

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."
- Roger A. Caras, writer and preservationist



Leaf Collection

Leaf collection runs through December 9

The Town's annual leaf collection runs through the week of December 9. There are no scheduled collection zones, as the Public Works Crew will monitor each street on a daily basis.

Gather leaves inside curb as shown below.

Please do not include grass clippings, mulch, twigs, or small branches within leaf piles, as this may damage our leaf vacuum. If your leaf pile contains any materials besides leaves, the Crew will not collect your pile, and you will be responsible for bagging the leaves on your own.



Where in Kensington?

A close knit community shares a common history and an interest in each other's lives. It's comforting to talk about familiar topics and share stories with friends and neighbors. The purpose of this column, "Where in Kensington?" is to re-discover all things common and familiar.



Where is this owl?

Keeping with a bird theme, who knows the location of this owl in Kensington?

The first person to email Kariann.Zentz@tok.md.gov with the location will receive a \$10 gift certificate from [JennyCakes Bakery](http://JennyCakesBakery.com)! JennyCakes carries cupcakes, cookies, bars, muffins and scones on a daily basis and offers cakes and pies by special order. Check out their seasonal specials at jennycakesbakery.net!

Voting closes on Friday, November 29, 2019.
The mystery will be solved in the next journal issue.



Answer to Where is this Eagle?

Last month we asked you where this eagle is in Kensington and who carved it. Julie O. was the first to answer with all the correct information and won a \$10 gift certificate to [Frankly Pizza](http://FranklyPizza.com) at 10417 Armory Ave, where she can enjoy a hearth-baked pizza in the heart of Kensington.

Jason Swain carved this eagle out of a white pine tree and it currently resides in Kensington's Town Hall. You can find it on the main level sitting room, where it majestically greets visitors as they take rest.



Read more about Jason on page 5.
You can find Jason Swain:
Website: jjswain.com
Instagram: @jasonjswain
Facebook: Jason-J-Swain-Art-Gallery
Email: Jason.Swain@gmail.com

Jason Swain

Local artist and Town employee, Jason Swain, carves out his roots in Kensington.

Story written by Jason Swain, artist

Born in Brisbane, Australia I grew up in a small country suburb and then moved to a small beach town. I spent many days surfing and camping the outback with family. My family was always involved with arts or crafts in one form or another.

I moved to the U.S. permanently in 1992 and met my wife on a surfing trip in Hawaii. I spent some time in California but the majority of time here in Maryland. Mostly a self taught artist, I gravitated towards oil portraits and was able to establish a broad spectrum of clients through various networking opportunities.



Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin also grew up in Australia

I carve statues out of tree trunks using various chainsaws and hand tools. You can find my work all over Kensington and local areas. I created the bald eagle at Ernest Memorial Park in 2016 to honor the military. (not pictured)



My recent work uses brewed coffee as a medium. These pieces can be found in many coffee houses throughout the DMV and also in Hawaii.



I have painted many service career people to include Australian army servicemen, local police and K9 units.



Two Wizard of Oz themed statues are featured in the newly established Kensington Park Library Garden.



Upcoming projects include a rustic bench supported by two bears at St. Paul Park, and several mural sized dog images on a concrete pillar for Kensington's new Dog Run on Metropolitan Avenue.

During the week you will see me around K Town working with the public works crew. When the weekend comes, it's all about the art.

Pumpkin Rock 'N Roll

On Saturday, October 26 in the Town of Kensington, residents celebrated the season with their 5th annual Pumpkin Rock N' Roll. This year was the first year it was held at GIGS Courtyard on Antique Row. The 2019 Sponsors are three old friends, Sean Gaiser, Sean Keegan, and Matt Corrado. They are the owners of GIGS, Rock Spring Contracting LLC, and Bright Light, respectively. The music sets a great vibe and all the kids seemed to enjoy the festivities.



In GIGS Courtyard you were transcended to a Halloween Extravaganza! Pumpkins everywhere, a sea of orange was being pushed, painted, and displayed.

You have to check out the Pumpkin Rock N' Roll Derby Races in the video below. It's always a good time watching the pumpkins race to the finish line.

[youtube.com/watch?v=C_YrcHA9DyU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_YrcHA9DyU)

Check out the event next year at PumpkinRockNRoll.com.

Photographed and Written by Montgomery Municipal Cable Television (MMCTV)

To read MMCTV's full blog, go to MMCTV.org/2019-Pumpkin-Rock-N-Roll

KTown Ladies Guild

The KTown Ladies Guild hosts monthly events for women in and around Kensington, including *Wine Down Wednesdays* and *Sip and Shop Socials*. They also attend local events together and host local authors and speakers from community organizations.



Want to join in the fun?

Check out their Event page at [Facebook.com/KTownLadiesGuild](https://www.facebook.com/KTownLadiesGuild)

Don't have Facebook? Send an email to info.ktownladies@gmail.com

October's Sip 'n Shop at Oak



Together at Opera in the Park



Wine Down Wednesday



MAA Show and Sale

Kensington's Town Hall serves the community in a myriad of ways to include live theater, community events and town meetings. [The Paint the Town Labor Day Art Show](#) presented by [The Montgomery Art Association](#) is a three-day event in September. MAA however, continues to show and sell art in Town Hall throughout the year! View a selection of ready-to-hang Kensington featured art created by local artists on the first floor conference room. Town Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Art makes a great gift!

Stop by and take a look at the heART of Kensington.



MCPS Districtwide Boundary Analysis

The MCPS Districtwide Boundary Analysis is an initiative designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of Montgomery County Public School boundaries by analyzing factors such as:

- School facility utilization and capacity
- Student demographics
- School assignment
- Travel patterns

This initiative will result in an analytical assessment and a summary of the community engagement process. It will not make recommendations on potential boundary revisions.

As part of this assessment, a series of regional public meetings will be held in six locations around the county in December and January. All residents of Montgomery County are invited to attend to learn more about the Boundary Analysis process and give feedback on opportunities and challenges with our public schools.

Each meeting will have the same format and content.

Learn More: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boundary-analysis/.

Holiday Events

KENSINGTON
Antique Row
Holiday
OPEN HOUSE
Friday, December 6th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Join us for refreshments & merriment!
KensingtonAntiqueRow.com

Holiday Events

Johnson's Holiday Market

Live
Music

Friday
December 6
5-8pm

Tastings

Artisan
Gifts

DIY
Crafts

- Live Music by Jelly Roll Mortals
- Tastings at The Dish & Dram + Old Town Market
- Johnson's Holiday Wreath and Centerpiece Making
- Exclusive Gifts by Local Artisans
- Gingerbread House Making
- Gourmet Greek Oils, Honey & Goodies

10313 Kensington Parkway



Upcoming Events

LAST CHANCE...

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
KENSINGTON 2020 DIRECTORY



Email your information to:
Kariann.Zentz@tok.md.gov

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- Full Adult Name(s)
- Full Street Address
- Phone(s)
- Email(s)

Indicate if you don't want to share your phone and/or email in the directory.

A new directory will be printed January, 2020.
Each Town resident will receive a copy.

16TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING

Town Dance

Wednesday, Nov 27
7-11pm | Town Hall

Featuring:
The Nighthawks

Benefitting Bethesda Help and
The 20895 Hunger Ministry

\$10/person + donation of non-perishable
food items and/or a \$10
Giant/Safeway Gift Card

BYO drinks and snacks
Non-Alcohol Event



Town of Kensington Christmas TREE LIGHTING



Sunday, December 1 • 5:30pm | Town Hall
Santa • KVFD • Music • Cider • Cookies

BRITISH PLAYERS



Bring the
whole family!
Suitable for Ages 4
and Older.

Alice in Wonderland

written by
Andrew O'Leary

A Traditional British Panto

directed by
Pauline Griller-Mitchell



Dec. 6, 2019 – Jan. 4, 2020

Upcoming Events

KENSINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY
PRESENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Face painting, coloring books, and a Christmas
movie will be playing.

DECEMBER 7TH, 2019
8:30AM - 12:30PM

KVFD STATION 5
10620 CONNECTICUT AVE.
KENSINGTON, MD
301-929-8000

The Kensington VFD Auxiliary thanks you for your
support.

Suggested Donation

\$4 for Kids 4 to 12
\$8 for Adults
Kids under 3 are Free



Customer Appreciation and ACE's Christmas Party



Saturday, December 7
11am-2pm

Local DJ • 15% off • Goodie Bags • Desserts
Cabot Cheese Ambassador • Refreshments
Big Green Egg Grilling Demos • Santa
Children's National Hospital Dr. Bear
December Roundup goes to Children's Miracle Network



Cider by the Fire

Sunday, December 8
5-7:30pm

VOK invites you to celebrate the many
sparkling festivities of the season.
Accessible & railing-assisted. RSVP by Dec 5.

Events@VillagesOfKensingtonMD.org

3607 Littledale Road

Kensington's Annual

MENORAH LIGHTING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 ★ 5 PM | TOWN HALL
MUSIC ★ CIDER ★ COOKIES



Caroling around the fountain AT FLINN PARK

SPONSORED BY MARK HUDSON GROUP
McNEARNEY ASSOCIATES



Monday, December 23 • 6:30pm
Sip hot chocolate and sing!

Town Minutes Summary

October 7, 2019 Work Session and Town Council Meeting

- Held a Work Session to discuss language and possible restrictions for State Legislation to adopt Montgomery County's alcohol regulations.
- Approved the Closed Session Minutes from August 14, 2019.
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2019.
- Adopted Resolution No. R-18-2019 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council authorizing the Town Manager to install "4 Hour, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, M-F" signs on the east side of Carroll Place and the west side of Montgomery Avenue adjacent to 10237 Carroll Place (Noyes Children's Library).
- Adopted Resolution No. R-19-2019 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council to allow the establishment of a Dog Exercise Area and provide regulations for its use.

October 28, 2019 Special Town Council Meeting

- Approved an amended Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for the maintenance and landscaping of the median along MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue).
- Approved comments, as recommended by the

Maryland Municipal League, to oppose any further federal regulations that would impede local governments from exercising land use authority to regulate small wireless infrastructure.

- Held a Closed Session pursuant to State Government Article §3-305(b) to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to consult with the Town Attorney to obtain legal advice.
- Held a Work Session to discuss language and possible restrictions for State Legislation to adopt Montgomery County's alcohol regulations and to discuss amendments to Chapter VI, "Signs and Commercial Regulations", of the Town Code.

Town Meeting Minutes

Complete Minutes, along with an audio recording from past meetings, are available on the Town's website at the following link:

<https://tok.md.gov/town-government/council-minutes-recordings/>

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Town Meeting Minutes, please contact Susan Engels, Clerk-Treasurer, at 301-949-2424, Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov.

MAYOR

Tracey Furman

Mayor.Tracey@tok.md.gov

COUNCIL

Darin Bartram
(Mayor Pro-Tem)

Conor Crimmins

Bridget Hill-Zayat

Duane Rollins

Mayor.Council@Tok.md.gov



TOWN STAFF & CREW

Sanford W. Daily, Town Manager

SWDaily@tok.md.gov

Matt Hoffman, Asst. Town Manager

MJHoffman@tok.md.gov

Susan Engels, Clerk - Treasurer

Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov

Shirley Watson, Facility Manager/Events

Shirley.Watson@tok.md.gov

Kariann Zentz, Communications & Marketing Specialist

Kariann.Zentz@tok.md.gov

Annie Thoopsamoot, Code Enforcement

Code@tok.md.gov

Jason Swain, Joe Natali, and Pablo Oliva, Public Works

Jamie Simms, Facility Maintenance

Community Resources

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301-933-6753

Paul.Sexton@edwardjones.com

Branch Team

Julie Bishop
Sr. Branch Office Administrator

**Why not get a review?
I am happy to come to you.**

Summit Ave Extension

By Darin Bartram, Councilmember and Traffic Committee Chair

There has been some discussion recently, on neighborhood listservs and at public meetings, about what is the Summit Avenue Extension. I wanted to provide a little background and explain why I and others on the Town Council have consistently supported this project.

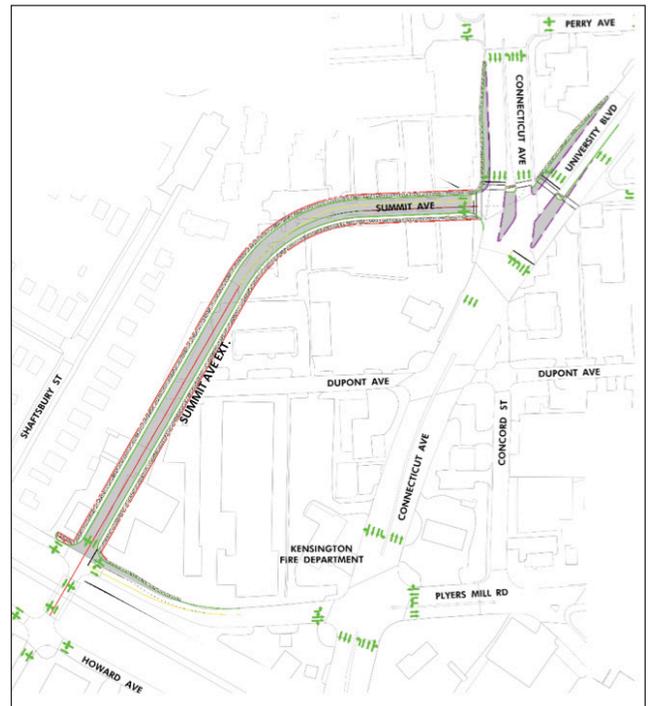
The Need

To put it mildly, traffic coming through Kensington is atrocious. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) considers the intersections of Connecticut & Knowles and Connecticut/Plyers Mill/Metropolitan to be failing, and failing badly. What makes traffic along Connecticut Ave. so congested between Knowles Ave. and Plyers Mill Rd. is that all north/south traffic along Connecticut Ave. and University Blvd. and all east/west traffic along Plyers Mill Rd. and Knowles Ave./Strathmore Ave./Cedar Rd. must combine and share the approximately 2 block area along Connecticut Ave. from Knowles until the Connecticut/University split north of Plyers Mill Rd.

The congestion problems worsen continually. Some people have pushed for a moratorium on new development in Kensington until the county or state address the congestion. That idea has a superficial appeal—until you realize that our roads carry 60,000 cars through this town of 2,000 residents. Large-scale development is happening outside of Kensington that contributes orders of magnitude more through-traffic than local projects will. Just in the last few years, development to the north includes Metro Pointe (121 units) and the Exchange (486 units) in Wheaton and to the south includes the Chevy Chase Lake, a mixed-use development set to open in 2021 and include 280 apartments, 65 condominiums, and over 100,000 square feet of retail as well as the growing campuses of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. We desperately need to address the increased through-traffic with increased capacity on the roads.

The Project

The Summit Avenue Extension would alleviate a



lot of the congestion along Connecticut Ave. by providing a bypass away from the intersection of Connecticut & Knowles. Southbound Connecticut Avenue traffic that wants to turn right onto Knowles would be diverted away from this congested intersection. Similarly, eastbound Knowles traffic that wants to turn left to head north on Connecticut would be able to do so way back at Summit Ave. rather than feeding into this intersection.

If you think about afternoon rush hour, traffic from the west has two options—go to Connecticut and turn left, or head up existing Summit to its dead-end at Plyers Mill and then turn right towards Connecticut. Both are extremely congested. The Summit Avenue Extension would retain these existing two access points to Connecticut, and would add Dupont and Farragut. This will allow a large volume of traffic that is passing through Kensington to do so more efficiently, thus reducing congestion, wait times, and backups. Additionally, it will provide additional options for north side residents to cross Connecticut Avenue to get to/from home in the morning and evenings. However, the Town will not allow straight-through traffic from the Summit Avenue Extension along Farragut from west of Connecticut/University to the residential area to the east.

Summit Ave Extension

The design of the Summit Avenue Extension centers on creating two additional returns to Connecticut Ave for north/south traffic north of Plyers Mill. This design will allow traffic to 'by-pass' the central retail corridor of Kensington along Connecticut Ave between Knowles and Plyers Mill providing the greatest opportunity for traffic congestion relief in the center of Kensington.

The Summit Avenue Extension will not be a "silver bullet" that cures all congestion. MCDOT projects that it will divert 10% of traffic from Connecticut Ave. to Summit Ave. However, this 10% diversion means 6,000 - 6,500 fewer cars traveling Connecticut Ave. between Farragut and Knowles Ave. each day.

The project also presents the opportunity to spur commercial redevelopment along its route. The commercial businesses currently located adjacent to KenGar between Connecticut Ave. and Summit Ave. are predominantly automobile repair services. A new roadway, with sidewalks and bike lanes will be an opportunity to revitalize this area with retail shops that cater to nearby residential neighborhoods.

The Summit Avenue Extension is a county project (because it is the improvement and extension of a county road), but it provides relief on state roads (Connecticut and Knowles) and would benefit the Town of Kensington, which is ground-zero for terrible congestion. The Town Council has repeatedly voiced its support for this project (for example, in a unanimous vote on October 8, 2018), and fought to maintain funding in the County budget to keep the development of this project moving forward. Most of our District 18 state delegation supports this project, as do our County councilmembers.

Alternatives

In short, there are no alternatives that provide significant relief for traffic coming through town on Connecticut Ave. The traffic flow is largely north-south, and that traffic has to cross the east-west CSX train tracks. The roads in this vicinity that cross over the train tracks are Connecticut Ave. and Summit Ave.

To be sure, there are some short-term improvements that MCDOT is studying and working to implement, given that the Summit Avenue Extension is

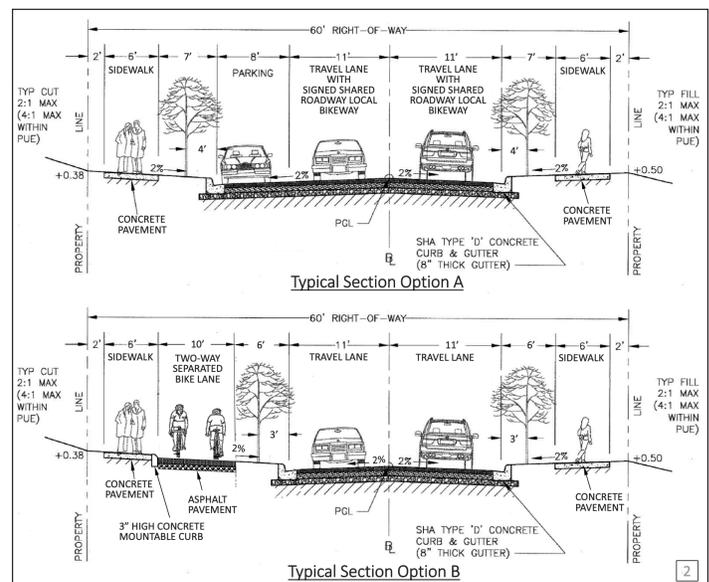
probably 5-7 years off. These include lengthening a southbound turning lane on Connecticut above Plyers Mill, as well as lengthening the turn lane on eastbound Plyers Mill for traffic turning left at Connecticut. The Town Council is supportive of these short-term improvements and is working with MCDOT to see that they are implemented. But, these short-term initiatives offer only marginal, directed improvements to specific intersections and are no substitute for the major infrastructure improvements that will improve the flow of traffic across the major traffic arteries that crisscross Kensington.

The Future

MCDOT has held several meetings to discuss the Summit Avenue Extension, and will hold several more as it continues to study and develop the proposals. Anyone who is interested in learning about the project or who wants their views to be considered should participate in the public meetings where the project is being discussed and developed. Now is the time, during the Phase II study of the project, to make suggestions on how this project can proceed but be improved to have minimal negative impacts in the area.

For more information go to:

montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/Resources/Files/SummitAve/Summit%20Ave%20Extension%20June%202013%202017%20Public%20Workshop%20Displays.pdf



Kensington Around Town

Nov/Dec 2019



3710 Mitchell Street Office: 301.949.2424
Kensington, MD 20895 www.tok.md.gov

To:

KENSINGTON



FARMERS' MARKET

Explore
KENSINGTON

ExploreKensington.com

Shopping, dining and events around town.

Featured Vendor!!

Grandma Vera's Bakery brings sweet and savory baked items to the market every week. Scones, empanadas, Brazilian cheese bread, soups, fresh squeezed juice and more!



OPEN YEAR ROUND!

Every Saturday 9am-1pm
Howard Avenue Train Station
Kensington, MD

ExploreKensington.com/farmers-market